

Offered: 3/20/89  
Referred: Finance

6-0556E

Original sponsors: Menard, Larson,  
Zawacki, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE  
2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6 (ITT)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION  
5 Supporting the development of coal  
6 mining at Wishbone Hill.  
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
8 WHEREAS the economies of communities in Southcentral Alaska have been  
9 slowed in recent years due to a variety of factors; and  
10 WHEREAS Alaska's coal reserves are the greatest of any state, yet  
11 remain largely undeveloped and untapped; and  
12 WHEREAS Alaska has long sought to encourage trade with its neighbors  
13 on the Pacific Rim; and  
14 WHEREAS Idemitsu Alaska, Inc., the subsidiary of a large Japanese  
15 energy firm, Idemitsu Kosan, Ltd., owns eight state coal leases in the  
16 Wishbone Hill district and has immediate plans to mine the coal and export  
17 it to Japan; and  
18 WHEREAS the Wishbone Hill district has been the site of extensive coal  
19 mining activity over the last 70 years; and  
20 WHEREAS Idemitsu Alaska, Inc., anticipates an employment base of 180  
21 full-time jobs with an annual payroll of approximately \$10,000,000 for the  
22 mine itself; and  
23 WHEREAS the State of Alaska, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Alaska  
24 Railroad, and the City of Seward would each benefit from increased revenue  
25 and employment from royalties, property taxes, indirect effects on trans-  
26 portation, and the other services required by an operating mine; and  
27 WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad is the principal transportation link from  
28 Wishbone Hill to tidewater; and  
29 WHEREAS one of the purposes of the Alaska Railroad is support for the

1 development of Alaska's natural resources; and

2 WHEREAS the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority has  
3 been effective in promoting resource development projects similar to the  
4 Wishbone Hill coal mine;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature strongly  
6 supports the development of Alaska's natural resources, including the coal  
7 deposits at Wishbone Hill; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature strongly urges that the state  
9 agencies working on this project coordinate their actions and do their  
10 utmost to take whatever prudent action is necessary to bring this project  
11 into operation; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Railroad is encouraged to support the  
13 development of coal mining at Wishbone Hill to the greatest extent allowed  
14 under the findings and purposes of the Alaska Railroad Corporation Act; and  
15 be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the  
17 Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to do everything possi-  
18 ble to support and promote the development of coal mining at Wishbone Hill.

19 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Mark S. Hickey, commis-  
20 sioner of transportation and public facilities; to Lennie Boston-Gorsuch,  
21 commissioner of natural resources; to Dennis D. Kelso, commissioner of  
22 environmental conservation; Don W. Collinsworth, commissioner of fish and  
23 game; and to Frank Turpin, president and chief-executive officer of the  
24 Alaska Railroad Corporation.